

tee go over those. Specifically we're talking about Appropriations, go over those and then send that back. That, to me, is all it takes. I think, Senator Newell, that Appropriations is so swamped at the moment, trying to get its work done, and Labor has been involved in this before. I see your point in the appropriations process. I think we're simply going to stall the session. I think Labor could go back and come out in a day or two with the answer. I also agree with Senator Frank Lewis that any contract that comes up, where money is approved by this Legislature, we ought to have a pretty good background on it before we approve it.

SENATOR NEWELL: Basically, I just want to point out this, I do not feel that the Legislature, without having a representative in the negotiations, can fairly, honestly, or correctly, or even legitimately, considering the separation of powers that our Constitution provides, talk about or review conditions of employment. I think that is a management-labor prerogative within the law that we passed. I do agree, and I would concur with you, that this ought to be discussed, this contract ought to have approval, but only as to its appropriations responsibilities, which is, basically with the separation of powers, our responsibility as the Legislature to approve any financial increases.

SENATOR MARVEL: That is all I'm interested in. I'm not interested in going into a two month discourse on all of the grievances, etc. Somebody said back here whether they wore brown shoes or white shoes, that is not the point. We have a responsibility in the area of appropriations that is specific in the law. That is the part we should address ourselves to. I don't think it's going to take that long.

SENATOR NEWELL: Let me just make one more point. This contract, the way it reads now, has no fiscal impact. The Legislature, they have not negotiated wages, they have not negotiated wages at all. The letter from the Attorney General will point that out. That is totally going to be set by the Appropriations Committee as to the state pay plan in what is given to all state employees. This, basically, lays out the conditions of employment. On that basis I don't think that we need to bring it back. I think it would serve no useful purpose to send it back. I think we ought to approve the contract between management and labor. If they had a financial impact, or....

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator.

SENATOR NEWELL: ...or if it had an appropriations impact then I think it should be sent, but I think it should be sent to the Appropriations Committee and not to the Business and Labor Committee. I would hope this body would recognize that this is not within our purview, that our approval of this contract and the law, as it was intended when it was written, only deals with our responsibility to financially meet the arrangements of this contract. Since there are no financial arrangements to this contract, I should see no reason why we need to send this back to any committee for review. This should be within a labor-management prerogative after management has already discussed it and debated it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis.